



Education Telecommunications Council

EDUCATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL NOTES

December 17, 2009

Amended 3/2/10

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The December 17, 2009, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council was held at Iowa Public Television and various ICN sites. The following members were present at the meeting: **Kenneth Colwell**, IAICU; **Greg Davis**, IASB; **Kent Johnson**, Regents; **Ellen Kabat-Lensch**, IACCT; **Sally Lindgren**, AEA Boards; **Carol Montz**, SAI; **Kathryn O'Shaughnessy**, ISEA; **Terry Rinehart**, IPTV; **Gail Sullivan**, DE; **Jean Torgeson**, IACCT; and **Mary Wieser**, DE/CIANS. **Mary Gannon**, IASB; **Glenn Grove**, AEA Boards; **Tom Kruse**, IAICU, **Kay Runge**, DE/Libraries; **Chet Rzonca**, Regents; and **Frank Wood**, SAI were absent. One ISEA position is still vacant.

The following guests were also present at the meeting: **John Gillispie**, **Joe Cassis**, **Mark Dayton**, **Julie Johnson** and **Dave Lingren**, ICN; **Jill Ferrie**, RTC 1 Coordinator; **Bruce McKee**, RTC 2 Coordinator; **Julie Thomas**, RTC 6 Coordinator; **Dawn Fratzke**, RTC 7 Coordinator; **Marcel Kielkucki**, RTC 10 Coordinator; **Janelle Archer**, RTC 11 Scheduler; **Linda Abel**, RTC 15; **Tiffany DeJager** and **Deb Fiscus**, IPTV.

II. UPDATES

A. ICN Updates

Rate Reductions (Dave Lingren)

Internet and Ethernet rates were dropped by 4%. Base phone rates were reduced by 10%. Outbound long-distance calls made by customers were reduced by 12%. All of the reductions will be effective January 1, 2010.

Capitol complex security (Dave Lingren)

Electronics are in place to create a redundant fiber path throughout the complex area. The phone system was originally on large component in the Lucas Building. It has now been set up so that major switching components are put in each building on the complex to allow them to be separate in case the system failure.

ICN backbone upgrade (Dave Lingren)

ICN is upgrading the whole ICN backbone to native Ethernet. The ICN has used ATM (asynchronous transport mode) for the last 5-6 years, the same as what telephone companies have used for many years which is not cost effective.

Phone system replacement (Dave Lingren)

The phone system on the complex is being upgraded to a more state-of-the-art digital phone system that also has some voice-over IP functionality. Upgrade is currently in year 5 of a 7-year completion plan.

Iowa Rural Health Care telecommunications project

This project allows rural hospitals to connect to the metro hospitals to receive services. 85 hospitals are part of this project, 13 of which have fiber being built out to them at this time. The electronics are expected to be turned up in the late February/early March timeframe. The hospitals will have high speed, 1 gigabyte connections so they have the ability to send medical information such as MRI tests.

IP video and Mpeg broadcast quality video (Mark Dayton)

Mark stated that he has put together a team to development and implement a new video conferencing platform built on IP technology from a transport perspective that will encompass new video classrooms as well as new opportunities; making sure to address the different budgets that people have with regard to the rooms. Today the rooms are standard definition rooms—the new platform will encompass both standard and high-definition resolution technologies, and not just “rooms” as we know them today, but it could be smaller rooms or desk top connectivity, as well as introduce a new service called video distribution services—i.e., the ability to record, stream, and archive sessions to be used a later date.

Broadband Initiatives (Joe Cassis)

Federal government grant awards were to be completed by Sept/Oct timeframe but was moved into December. No announcements have been made to date. There have been some indications on the mapping process--several states have received funding for the mapping of broadband—identifying those unserved or underserved areas for broadband penetration and sustainable adoption of broadband, and to identify the speed for those areas and the rates one would have to pay for that broadband service. The state of Iowa has a contract with Connected Nation which now has been granted as Connected Iowa but they have not received their funding from the federal government as yet. They are to create a broadband plan in conjunction with a 15-member board that has been constructed out of the I-Jobs bill, a state bill that generated over \$834 million for various projects, one of which was an allocation of \$25 million to disburse as matching funds for the federal projects. For more information about the broadband strategy project, contact Joe at Joseph.Cassis@iowa.gov.

Federal Grant update (John Gillispie)—There are many activities going on at the federal level with both the NTIA (National Telecommunications Infrastructure administration) and the RUS (Rural Utility Service). The NTIA is in the Dept of Commerce and the RUS is in the Dept of Agriculture. The RUS has historically supported rural telecommunications and the NTIA has historically NOT been involved in promoting

broadband at any level but their current mission is to hand out \$7.4 billion dollars associated with the Recovery Act through a series of grants which the Iowa broadband governance board is intending to match on an 80/20 basis for those successful applicants that meet the criteria in the Iowa law (beyond what the federal law calls for). The federal grant money has to be distributed by September 2010. Discussion followed.

Sale of the ICN (John Gillispie)—Sen. Gronstal has indicated that he would entertain selling the ICN as long as the State got a fair price and it didn't increase costs for telecommunications. John urged ETC members and educators to get engaged with their legislators if the ICN is to remain a viable entity for educational use. A lengthy discussion followed.

B. ICN Site Availability

1. After Hours Room Use Fees

Greg Davis opened the discussion about ICN room use fees. A law was established in 1995 that allowed ICN sites to charge \$12.50 per hour for room use fees.

ICN sites are permitted to charge up to \$12.50 per hour for use of the ICN site for actual hours of ICN time scheduled (exception: K-12 users may not be charged for use of site between hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday).

The actual cost has increased beyond that amount. There have been requests to have the cap on the ICN room use fees raised and the ITTC is considering that. There has also been some interest in the ETC discussing and possibly producing a document in support of raising the amount that ICN sites can charge for room use fees. Greg Davis will survey technology coordinators across the state to determine what their board policy permits regarding access to classrooms. Discussion followed.

2. No-Transmits on K-12 Sites

There was a discussion concerning K-12 schools that have no-transmits on their rooms for reasons other than school use; i.e., staff not available to open room. Chapter 10 Administrative Rules state that ICN educational sites are accessible:

Monday - Friday	7:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(except on Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's)

Information will be collected and further discussion may be expected in following ETC meetings.

C. 10% Across-the-Board Funding Reduction

The Governor issued an executive order for a 10% funding reduction which also affected the RTC funding allocation. Each RTC was required to amend their funding plans to reflect the reduction and it is believed that the lower allocation of \$1,108,863.90 will be the new status quo.

D. Dept of Education Educational Technology Initiatives

Vic Jaras of the Dept of Education stated that funds from the ARRA Stimulus Package will be used for educational technology initiatives which totally depend on the below-market Internet access costs that are provided by the ICN. If the ICN is sold it will have a major impact on those plans.

There's been a tremendous amount of interest across the state to develop capacity for online learning. A professional development council has created a couple of positions for people who are going to be content trainers and creators. The funds would also be used to create a state-wide repository of content which would be beneficial to schools and the Iowa Learning Online project. The first step is to purchase online content. Long term plans are to get teachers up to speed on how to use web content in the classroom, and then to begin to teach them how to create lessons, units, and courses. Discussion followed.

A partnership has been developed with Google to provide free software, Google Sketch-Up Professional Version (a 3-D modeling program), to every Iowa school district. If the software licenses would have been purchased, a cost estimate for 8,000 licenses would be \$3.1 million, and there are nearly 9,000 licenses installed to date.

A lengthy discussion followed.

For more information about the Dept of Education educational technology initiatives, contact Vic Jaras at Vic.Jaras@iowa.gov.

For more information about the Iowa Learning Online project, contact Gwen Nagel (Gwen.Nagel@iowa.gov) at the Dept of Education.

E. 2010 Legislative Session

There was discussion concerning the reorganization bill that suggests disbanding the ETC and funding aspects of the Iowa Learning Online project.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The December 17, 2009, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next scheduled meeting of the ETC is June 3, 2010, at Iowa Public Television.

ETC Notes—12/17/09